



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2004

No. 90

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, bring the best possible resolve to work today for the common good of the people. As we anticipate the July 4 holiday, we ask Your blessing upon Your Nation and Your protection of our military forces. Provide safe travel and may peace await all at their final destination.

The American practice of coming together in prayer, relating faith to historic events and national celebrations has taught people with clashing creeds to stand united in religious tolerance and mutual respect. Perhaps, Lord, in doing so, America has been spared some of the religious conflicts that continue to afflict other places in the world.

So, Lord, on this forthcoming celebration of Independence Day, may we truly rejoice in our God-given right to freedom of religious expression. For in You, our God, we place our trust now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HERSETH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 884. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, and 326-K, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2751. An act to provide new human capital flexibilities with respect to the GAO, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4103. An act to extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

H.J. Res. 97. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2322. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 5, United States Code, to include employees of the District of Columbia courts as participants in long term care insurance for Federal employees.

S. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution promoting the establishment of a democracy caucus within the United States.

S. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 7102(a)(ii) of Public Law 108-132, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Parents Advisory Council on Youth Drug Abuse:

Laurens Tullock of Tennessee.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 5 one-minute speeches per side.

HELPING DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday H.R. 4703 was introduced in response to a report issued by the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth. The findings of the study are as follows:

Number one, 10 million American teens are plagued by poverty, abuse and neglect, academic failure and substance abuse.

Number two, the Federal Government has created 355 programs to serve youth in response to these deficits and afflictions. The result has been chaotic. Two-thirds of the programs evaluated by OMB were rated ineffective or redundant.

This bill would create a Federal Youth Development Council. The Council is charged with, number one, improving and coordinating youth-serving programs; number two, issuing an annual report on youth programs and their effectiveness; and, number three, setting quantifiable goals and developing a plan for each program.

This legislation will allow more children in need to be served more effectively. It is supported by an overwhelming majority of youth agencies. I urge support of H.R. 4703.

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, Americans know that we have asked a great deal of our uniformed men and women over the life of this Republic in preserving liberty at home and fostering liberty abroad. We continue to ask for and receive tremendous sacrifices from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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